

Senate File 3 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 3
BY ZAUN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an interim study committee relating to
2 child welfare.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. LEGISLATIVE INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE — CHILD
2 WELFARE.

3 1. The legislative council is requested to establish an
4 interim study committee to comprehensively review and evaluate
5 the state's child welfare system.

6 2. The committee shall solicit and receive information from
7 agencies and entities including but not limited to all of the
8 following:

- 9 a. The department of human services.
- 10 b. The judicial branch.
- 11 c. The department of education.
- 12 d. Recruitment, retention, training, and support
- 13 contractors.
- 14 e. Law enforcement agencies.
- 15 f. A nonprofit adoption agency.

16 3. The interim committee's evaluation and review shall
17 include but is not limited to a review of the protocols and
18 practices relating to the child abuse reporting, investigation,
19 and assessment process; the education and training of foster
20 parents and adoptive parents; the grounds for termination of
21 parental rights in relation to child abuse and neglect; the
22 roles of and relationship between the judicial branch, juvenile
23 court officers, schools, and the department of human services
24 in relation to child abuse; and the outsourcing of services
25 provided by the department of human services in relation to the
26 child welfare system.

27 4. The interim committee shall meet during the 2021
28 legislative interim and shall submit a report, including
29 findings and recommendations, to the governor and the general
30 assembly by December 21, 2021.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill requests the legislative council to establish an
35 interim study committee for the 2021 legislative interim. The

1 bill requires the study committee to comprehensively evaluate
2 the child abuse reporting, investigation, and assessment
3 process; the education and training of foster parents and
4 adoptive parents; the grounds for termination of parental
5 rights in relation to child abuse and neglect; the roles and
6 relationship between the judicial branch, juvenile court
7 officers, schools, and the department of human services in
8 relation to child abuse; and the outsourcing of services
9 provided by the department of human services in relation to the
10 child welfare system.

11 The bill provides that the committee shall solicit and
12 receive information from agencies and entities including
13 but not limited to the department of human services; the
14 judicial branch; the department of education; recruitment,
15 retention, training, and support contractors; law enforcement
16 agencies; and a nonprofit adoption agency. The bill requires
17 the committee to submit a report, including findings and
18 recommendations, to the governor and general assembly by
19 December 21, 2021.